



**General Assembly of Tennessee
OFFICE OF LEGAL SERVICES
Cordell Hull Building
Nashville, Tennessee 37243**

January 14, 2021

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Honorable Randy McNally, Lt. Governor and Speaker of the Senate
Chairs of the standing committees of the Senate
Honorable Cameron Sexton, Speaker of the House of Representatives
Chairs of the standing committees of the House of Representatives

FROM: Karen Garrett, Director
Anastasia P. Campbell, Director
Paige A. Seals, Revisor of Statutes

SUBJECT: Revisor of Statutes - 2019-2020 Report

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Office of the Repealer was created within the Office of Legal Services (OLS) by Chapter 475 of the Public Acts of 2013 (Tenn. Code Ann. § 3-12-109); the functions and duties of the office were transferred to the Revisor of Statutes within OLS by Chapter 603 of the Public Acts of 2016. The Revisor of Statutes accepts submissions from Tennessee citizens and entities for review of Tennessee state laws and rules believed to be anachronistic, obsolete, defective, duplicative, contradictory, unnecessary, or incomprehensible. The Revisor biennially reports findings and recommendations regarding such submissions to the speaker of the senate, the speaker of house of representatives, and the chairs of the standing committees.

II. REPORT

Please accept this memorandum as the 2019-2020 Biennial Report of the Revisor of Statutes. The 2019-2020 Biennial Report encompasses submissions made to the

OLS Revisor from January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2020. During this reporting period, the OLS Revisor received two completed submissions via the website (both of which were received in July 2019) and no submissions via regular mail. The two submissions identified the same provision of law for deletion, as follows:

Submissions dated July 13, 2019, and July 16, 2019, regarding "Nathan Bedford Forrest Day" as a day of special observance. Tennessee Code Annotated 15-2-101 provides for days of special observance, including "Nathan Bedford Forrest Day" on July 13. The statute provides that "the people of this state are invited to observe the days...with appropriate ceremonies."¹ It has been submitted that this particular day of observance is "incomprehensible," "unnecessary," "anachronistic," and "obsolete." The OLS Revisor finds that the issue of whether Tennessee desires to remove "Nathan Bedford Forrest Day" as a day of special observance is a policy decision. It is the role of the General Assembly to decide such policy matters.

If you have any questions, please contact Paige Seals at (615) 741-3056.

¹ TCA 15-2-101 was amended by Chapter 707 of the Public Acts of 2020 to substitute the phrase "the people of this state are invited to observe" for the phrase "the governor shall invite the people of this state to observe." The Act also removed the duty of the governor to proclaim the days of special observance.